

# Village View

WATERMEAD'S *FREE* QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Autumn 2019 Vol.26 Issue 3

## Summer Picnic

Balloon Meadow, 12 noon  
Sunday 25th August

Book your Christmas Fair table

## Films on the Field

Saturday 14th September,  
Balloon Meadow, from 4pm

## Garden competition results

Watermead Remembrance Day  
Monday 11th November

See inside for more details  
of all the above



News from Watermead Parish Council & more!  
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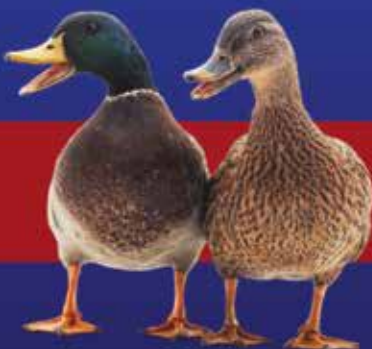
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## Parish Chairman's News

**The only way to describe summer to date is hot! We have been enjoying exceptional weather, the roses are looking fantastic and the grass is growing like mad. All of which challenge us in our gardens and the parish to keep everything looking at its best; some who dislike the heat find it hard to cope.** However,

the summer holidays are upon us and hopefully our younger residents will be able to enjoy our trim trail and playing around the lakes. We are so fortunate to have this space.

Berkshire Bucks and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and Marcus Militello with his band of volunteers continue to work on the land behind the Gatehouse to create a wildflower reserve. The land looks parched at present but in the autumn when seeding takes place and there is some, inevitable, rain the hard work will begin to show. Thanks to all who have helped with this area. Our hanging baskets are looking their best now; they make the drive into Watermead so attractive. Thanks also to our fantastic ground maintenance team and Dave Lucas who keep things looking their best, no easy feat, particularly given the current weather.

During spring and early

summer the remaining cygnets have thrived, with occasional visits from a family of swans who cross to and from Buckingham Park in a small crocodile with mum at the front and dad bringing up the rear. They have regularly stopped traffic. We do stop for swans and geese - patience is important. Many photographs and videos have been published on Facebook which are very entertaining. During spring one swan died and his mate was bullied by the others on the lake. She was moved to Tiggywinkles, with her eggs, which successfully hatched. A new home has been found for them, which is great news. Tiggywinkles helps us with wildlife very regularly. It has been decided to give the proceeds of this year's Carol Concert to Tiggywinkles as a small thank you to help them with their work.

On the topic of driving carefully, the message is clear: Please do not speed. We know that the majority of residents drive carefully and are concerned about speeding. We have a Community Speedwatch scheme which includes a moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) and Sentinel speed camera. Speeders recorded on the camera are reported to the Police for action. Please drive carefully at all times, not just when you see the camera. Bucks Highways tell us they are

still trying to resolve the problems with the rising bollards at Lark Vale. Please don't drive through the gap - it is illegal, and Lark Vale is not designed for large volumes of traffic. If you would like to help with Speedwatch and can spare half an hour on a regular basis to either move the MVAS or operate Sentinel please let Noreen Shardlow, our Parish Clerk, know.

### Parking

Over the past month or so our Parish Clerk has received a number of complaints from Watermead residents about inconsiderate parking on Watermead. Some people are blocking their neighbour's driveway and others parking in the designated turning areas. The Parish Council have faced problems with access to the balloon meadow and we have now had to mark the area as "No Parking".

### Summer events

This year's Larks by the Lake took place on rather a wet afternoon. Almost £4,000 was raised for our charities and facilities for Watermead. (Last year's funds were used towards the popular trim trail, our first children's play area, behind the outdoor gym). Despite some heavy downpours, a very large number of visitors enjoyed the various events on offer. Some stayed to shop at the great range of stalls,



Chairman:  
Cllr Sue Severn  
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with some taking part in the dog show, Bollywood dancing, and cake baking competition. The supercars and fairground were much enjoyed, as was the entertainment and street food.

**A Parish Picnic is being held on 25th August. Everyone is invited to attend and to enjoy one of the last days of summer in the Balloon Field. The event will be a simple opportunity for residents to enjoy a relaxed time together.**

This year's Film Night will take place on Saturday 14th September. Jungle Book will be the children's film shown, followed by the sing-a-long version of Mama Mia! Bring your rugs and chairs and enjoy the films, bar and catering on offer, this time supporting The British Heart Foundation. Volunteers to help set up and help clear up afterwards are welcome. If you are willing to help please get in touch with the committee at watermeadevents@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing you there and to hearing the singing!

Our thanks to Karen Collett and her team of dedicated

helpers; you are a great asset to our community without you we would not have these enjoyable events.

#### Photographic Competition

This year's photographic competition will build on the success of last year's. Eric Rose is hoping for more high quality entries in each category. There have been so many fantastic photographs on the All About Watermead Facebook page and competition looks as if it will be stiff. It will be a hard task to judge the winners. This year's judge is Richard Landy, son of the late Sandra Landy who instigated the original competition. The winner receives the Sandra Landy Memorial Cup. Richard, who has a television production company, is well qualified to judge the entries. Good luck to all.

#### Watermead Calendar 2020

Once again, we will be producing a Watermead Calendar using images from entries to the competition. Last year's calendar was well received and if you would like to reserve one or more calendars, please let Noreen Shardlow

know as soon as possible. They will be delivered in December in time to give as Christmas gifts.

#### Best front garden competition

It will be equally hard for Irina Schwab to judge this year's front garden competition. Many gardens have been absolutely stunning from flat balconies to large frontages. Behind neat hedges and fences the flowers have been exceptional. See inside for the results!

#### Watermead sign

A group of volunteers from the parish have done a great job in clearing the area around the Watermead sign. They are now working on plans to further improve the area. The sign was originally lit and was an attractive feature of the entrance to Watermead. They aim to restore the sign and are finding out whether the original lighting can be reinstated. They are also investigating possibilities for planting some trees and shrubs in that area. Thank you all very much, it is already looking much better. Mr Bone, who owns the land, has kindly given permission for the work to be carried out.

**Forthcoming events**  
We will, once again, be gathering at the Remembrance Garden on 11th November at 11am to remember the lost in all conflicts.

The next edition of Village View will include details of our Christmas events, the Craft Fair on 7th December and the Carol Concert on the 14th, heralding the start of Christmas in Watermead.

I hope that you continue to enjoy the rest of summer and, if you are planning to go away, that you enjoy your holiday.

Chairman Sue Severn

**Below images: On 17th June 2019 Peter Dean, Graham Severn and others cleared all the undergrowth from the "Welcome to Watermead" sign at the entrance to Watermead and generally tidied up the whole area. Peter Dean took these images of before and after the clearance. It certainly is noticeable when you drive in. Thank you to Dave Lucas too for lending the strimmer. I am sure you will agree that they have done an amazing job.**

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WATERMEAD  
CHRISTMAS  
FAIR

Saturday 7th December 2019  
Village Hall, The Piazza 11am - 5pm

To book a table at this year's fair please contact  
Graham for further information

01296 336575  
[graham.severn@aol.com](mailto:graham.severn@aol.com)

and don't forget:

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# Tea Break Quiz



- Estoril is a resort northeast of which major city?
- Colonel Thomas Blood tried to steal what in 1671?
- Who wrote the play Private Lives?
- Which licence was abolished in 1988 after 192 years?
- Who wrote the stories subsequently televised as Poldark?
- Michaelangelo painted the ceiling of which famous chapel?
- What does 'chop suey' literally mean?
- How does a judge hear a case when it is heard in camera?
- Who started the Habitat chain of shops in 1964?
- A nectarine is a cross between which two fruits?
- What did Mary Holland advertise on television for 18 years?
- Archibald Leach, born in Bristol, became which Hollywood star?
- When do ducks always lay their eggs?
- Which vitamin deficiency causes rickets?
- Who did James Earl Ray assassinate?
- Which tribe did Sitting Bull belong to?
- How many tournaments make up a tennis Grand Slam?
- In which country did denim originate?
- What did Dr Howard Carter discover?
- In which year did the UK join the European Union?

**Answers on page 17**



# What's on ...around Watermead

## September

4th	Vale Countryside Volunteers Working Group Day	Village Hall, 7:30pm
5th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Balloon Meadow, from 4pm
14th	Films on the Field	Village Hall, 7:30pm
19th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	

## October

3rd	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
17th	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	

## November

7th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
11th	Watermead Remembrance Day	Remembrance Garden, 11am
21st	Watermead Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall, 7:30pm
17th	Lavender Lane Vintage/Shabby Chic Fair	Village Hall, 10am to 3.30pm

## December

5th	Watermead & Weedon WI	Village Hall, 7:30pm
7th	Watermead Christmas Fair	Village Hall, 11am to 5pm
14th	Watermead Carol Concert	The Piazza, 6pm

**Are you looking for a venue?** Watermead Village Hall is the ideal venue for young children's birthday parties, meetings or christenings, etc. If you are an organisation looking for a regular venue, the Village Hall or the Bandstand could be the perfect place. Please call Noreen Shardlow 01296 395211

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## Our regulars in the Village Hall...

**Parish Council**  
3rd Thursday of the month  
(excluding August & December)  
Public meeting - 7.30pm  
Council meeting - 8.00pm

**Cygnets Pre-School**  
2.5 - 4 yrs: Monday, Wednesday - Friday. 9.00am - 12.00pm  
Tuesday 9.00 - 12.30pm,  
3 & 4 yrs: Breakfast: Monday - Friday 8.30 - 9.00am  
Lunch: Monday, Wednesday - Friday. 12.00 - 1.30pm  
Dot Toler  
cygnets.leader@gmail.com  
07563 783464

**Scrapbooking/Card Making Any Craft Of Your Choice Crafty Chicks**  
4th Friday of the month from 6.30pm  
Contact Daphne 393131

**Watermead & Weedon Women's Institute**  
First Thursday of the month  
7.30 - 9.30pm  
Julia Morgan 01296 487650

**Soul Space**  
Wednesdays 8-9pm except every 2nd Wednesday  
£5 a session, Pre-booking advised  
Holly Miller 07845 435619

**Aylesbury & District Philatelic Society**  
Second Wednesday of the month  
7.30 - 10.00pm  
Peter Barnes 612913

**Kumon Maths**  
Monday & Thursday  
2.30 - 6pm  
Susan Jones 747469

**Jo Jingles**  
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**PUBLICATION DATES**  
2019/2020

**WINTER**  
30th November

**SPRING**  
7th March

**SUMMER**  
6th June

**AUTUMN**  
5th September

# Larks by the Lake 'Fun Dog Show'

**D**og owners were not deterred by the heavy shower that poured down on us at the start of the fun dog show. There were 11 entries for the first class - Best Puppy under 12 months old. Luna, a 12 week-old Labrador was the winner with her owner, Sarah Bullimore from Haddenham. Bonnie, a Shih Tzu (13 weeks old) came 2nd - her owner is Michelle Irving from Buckingham Park. Lola, a 15 week-old French Bulldog, from Wendover came 3rd. The winner received a cup with the runner up and 3rd place receiving a rosette. All entrants received a medal and dog treats.

The next class was Best Veteran over 9 years of age. All the winners were aged 11. Mo, owned by Rebecca Schevels from South Heath came 3rd; Sophie, a West Highland Terrier, owned by Sandra Norris from Watermead was the runner up; and Fin, a black and white Border Collie owned by Scott Nicholas from Bierton was the winner and was put forward for Best in Show.

Best Junior Dog Handler came next and they had to demonstrate walk to heel, sit and lie down. There were 5 entries who all gave a great performance. Milo, a large Labrador proved to be quite a handful for Elfi Huxley from Ivinghoe who came 3rd. Missie, a Bedlington Terrier handled by Amelia Collett of Watermead, came 2nd. The winner was Danielle Brown from Aylesbury with Cookie.

There were 6 entries for the Best Cross Breed Dog: Boris, a cross between a French Bulldog and English Bulldog, owned by Clare Howes of Watermead came 3rd; Cassie, owned by Pam Brown of Watermead was runner up, and Tai, shown by Dave Renton of Pitstone was the winner and put

forward to Best in Show.

We then had 15 entries for Best Pedigree Dog which proved to be very difficult for the judges. However, a decision had to be made and after much deliberation George, a Labrador, owned by Alex McLachlan of London Colney, came 3rd; Pippa, a Beagle, owned by Ben Moloney from Berryfields was runner up, and Henry, an English Pointer owned by Kirsty Harris from Aylesbury was chosen as the winner and put forward to Best in Show.

Next we had a little fun with Fancy Dress, Dog and Owner. Elfi Huxley came on as a Dinosaur with Milo dressed up as a caveman. And Kai Presdee from Watermead was Spiderman with his little Pug who was the Spider! Both entries were so impressive that they were awarded joint 1st prize.

There were 9 entries for The Dog with the Waggiest Tail. Harry, a cocker spaniel, being shown by Sunny Panniker of Bierton, came 3rd; Remi, a Dalmation with liver spots, owned by Katie Thompson from Fairford Leys, was runner up; and the winner was Daisy, owned by Chloe Orwin from Watermead. Daisy was put forward for Best in Show.

So, finally, we came to Best in Show. The overall winner was Fin, the 11 year old Border Collie, with Tai as Reserve, and Daisy was 2nd. Sadly Henry didn't take part.

Many thanks to Myrna Holgate and Sue Severn for judging and organising our competition, to Simon Holding for being the fabulous, upbeat compere, and to Louis Cass for helping with registrations.

Mary Singleton



**Fancy Dress Joint Winner**



**Fancy Dress Joint Winner**



**2nd - Best dog handler**



**Best in Show**



# Larks by the Lake 2019

**Thank you to all who contributed to 'Larks by the Lake' 2019. We were not blessed by good weather but that didn't stop hundreds of people from coming along.** The Balloon Meadow was full with entertainment, stalls, food stalls, games and fair rides. This meant the event was even bigger and better than last year.

We were entertained with Tae Kwon Do by Charlton Ford's group, Ukulele music from 'Ukee Tunes', and 'Katie's Jumping Fleas' (special thanks to Sarah Fraser). We also enjoyed dance, singing and drama from the Pauline Quirke academy and, who could forget the fabulous Bollywood dancing from Kalpesh Patel and K'Z dance UK?

We need to say a special thank you to Nigel Woy and Phil Toler for their wonderful sound engineer work much of which was thrown on them at the very last minute!

Huge thanks as ever to our sponsors who we could not do this without:

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Also thank you to anyone who donated a raffle prize, Buckinghamshire High Performance Motorsport for bringing their posh cars, Fun Factor Parties for bringing the bumblebee, Chris and Sarah for running the 'Bake off', and anyone who donated cakes,

bottles, books or bric a brac.

With everyone's help and despite the rain we managed to raise £200 more than last year with a fantastic £3,836.35. We will be putting £1000 towards another National Lottery grant for more play equipment and allocating the rest equally between these charities which were voted for by the committee: SMILES, CHAT, Prostate Cancer UK

Following 'Larks by the Lake' the committee also organised the Darts night when champion darts player 'Wolfie Adams' came to Watermead and darts fans came out in force to raise an amazing £2179.85 including £300 matched funding from Santander.

In our 'quest' to get the community together we would like to invite everyone to 'The big family picnic'. This will be on the Balloon Meadow on Sunday 25th August from 12pm. Just turn up with a picnic.

We hope you will enjoy our second outdoor film night on Saturday 14th September. *Karen Collett*



# Watermead & Weedon WI getting out and about

**People may think that being a part of the WI is about being part of a wide group of women who enjoy meeting up once a month to hear talks on a wide range of subjects, raise money for charity, take up important issues that face us in our daily lives, do craft work, bake and possibly do some of the foregoing with the help of the odd glass of wine, lunch or a cream tea now and then.** So it may seem a little bit surprising to say to anyone thinking of joining a WI that they could be a part of the WI and see the world! Well, that might be a slight exaggeration and it probably should be scaled back to say "Join the WI and see more of the UK" but the point is still the same.

You see, we don't confine our activities to those meetings locally once per month in a convenient local hall. We do get out and about and see other places of interest, either in the course of our everyday WI business or simply for pleasure. For instance, at least twice a year Watermead & Weedon WI (WWWI) has the resources, through a local charity, to hire a coach and set off on a visit to somewhere of interest. We are usually out from about 9.30 am until 5 pm and we try to find places within a drive of about an hour/hour and a half from Aylesbury. Members travel free and the only expense is the cost of refreshments during the day and possibly the entry fee for a particular attraction. In order to fill up the coach, we open places to other WIs and to friends and family.

Last month we went to the Cotswold Wildlife Park which was a day thoroughly enjoyed by all who went. There were animals to see, gardens to walk in, and some particularly good weather which is always a help. Previous days out have been to Brighton, Cambridge, Winchester, the Christmas market in Bath, the theatre in Oxford to see Chicago, and our next visit is to Guildford in September.

In addition to our local trips, the Bucks Federation of Women's Institutes (BFWI) also organise short holidays for members and again non-members (including husbands sometimes!) are invited. These trips are not free but the costs are kept to reasonable levels and anyone who has been on one will tell you that they are not only good value but also very enjoyable. The venues are further afield and trips typically last 3 or 4 days. The most recent trip was five days to the Derbyshire Peaks and Dales in June which included a visit to Bakewell, a horse drawn trip along the Cromford canal and visits to Rockingham Castle, Hardwick Hall, Chatsworth and Calke Abbey. Two of our WWWI members went on the break and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The next trip in September is to see the Illuminations at Blackpool, also visiting the National Memorial Arboretum, Chester and Baddesley Clinton. These trips often cover many miles but they are sometimes a little less hectic than the 2017 trip to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular which is in Norfolk. (Hot off the press - the 2020 BFWI trip will be 5 days in Amsterdam!)

So as you can see, WI members can and do get out and about around the country at every opportunity. The activities are varied and our own WWWI trips are often organised in such a way that those who go can use the day exactly as they wish. It never ceases to amaze me how many versions of each outing there are as each participant seems to find something to their taste wherever we go.

You don't have to live in Watermead or Weedon to join us. We welcome members from all over Aylesbury. You are welcome to come as a prospective member or as a visitor to a particular talk and you will be made most welcome. We meet at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month in Watermead Village Hall. Our programme is displayed on the Watermead notice board and contact details are on "What's On" on page 08. We look forward to welcoming some of you.

*Julia Morgan*

## WI programme for the next four months

- 5th September** "Bagels and Bacon – Growing up in the post war East End" - a talk by Jeff Rozelaar.
- 3rd October** Competition – A 1950's item
- 7th November** A talk about the work of Thames Valley Air Ambulance
- 5th December** Annual meeting and then we'll have a Stollen tasting session
- Make a Christmas table decoration

## Hatha Yoga Class

A weekly relaxing and strengthening Hatha yoga class that is suitable for all levels. Some weeks we hold Asanas for longer and other weeks we may go into more of a flow style.

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*Carl Hinton*

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[marcusmilitello@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:marcusmilitello@bbowt.org.uk) / 07955 855 732



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## Watermead Cygnets Pre-School

**By the time you read this article we may be in the middle of an extended summer warm spell or autumn has come early.**

Whatever the weather, enjoy reading about the antics of the children at Cygnets during the summer term. It's good news and bad news! As we are an optimistic team, let's start with the bad news and end on a high note.

Watermead Cygnets Pre-school will close at the end of the summer term 2020. The setting is a registered charity. It is no longer sustainable due to market forces which include these factors:

- many schools in the area having their own pre-schools with some taking 2 year olds
- less parental involvement because more are taking up the government's incentive of 30 hours of free childcare entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds, therefore going back to work and needing wrap-around care
- difficulty in recruiting parents to take up responsible roles on the committee.

It has not been easy for the present committee and staff to make this decision but, after consultation and advice from relevant parties, a managed closure is occurring over 4 terms. Parents and Early Years (Bucks CC) were informed after Easter. We will continue to take in children from September 2019 until the start of the summer term next year. Bucks Early Years and Watermead Parish Council have already published application forms for organisations/individuals interested in setting up a new pre-school in the Village Hall

starting September 2020.

Now for the good and fun-filled news ...

Easter came and went with a post-holiday Easter parade of creative hats, paint-splashed eggs and chocolate hangover. In the first half of the summer term our topics covered farms, jungles, deserts and fairy tales. We squeezed in a visit to the Green Dragon Eco Farm in Quainton, witnessing the birth of the farm's first reindeer calf named Archie (after the royal one)... AHHH! We would have liked to chug down a river meandering through dense jungle or soar in a hot air balloon over a desert but unfortunately funds were not available. Was the wolf really horrible to the three little pigs or just plain hungry and would have settled for a cream tea? Did Little Red Riding Hood bring healthy food to her grandma? Why did Jack steal from the giant?

In the second half of the term we learnt about all kinds of materials used in everyday things like glass, wood, metal, fabrics, paper and plastics. What is recyclable and what isn't? Is littering a good choice? Which materials are water-proof and which are not? During the week of 'I Can', we asked ourselves 'What can I do?' Jump, run, hop, paint, sing, dance, tell a story, laugh, balance, write, count ...a pat on our backs - we can do a lot!! The physical abilities were displayed on a rainy Sports Day held indoors. The obstacle course was challenging involving bunny-jumping in and out of hoops, zig-zagging in between markers and finishing off with placing hats on our heads. The parents did not escape - they too were volunteered to run the gauntlet of the same obstacle

course although some heads were too big for the hats!

Oh, I forgot to mention - somebody smothered our little pool in the ditch containing tadpoles with grass cuttings. Massacre! No, we didn't tell the children or follow up on the tadpole-to-frog report. Also, the potatoes and carrots that we grew were yummy especially with a hint of mint.

Our final topic of the year was our favourite - The sea and beach. The children always have a great time creating the sea collage using copious amounts of paint, glue and a variety of textured paper. Brightly coloured fishes, seaweed, jellyfish, seahorses and boats filled the display board. The odd caravan and the must-have bucket/spade/parasol made an appearance too on the 'beach'.

The children were treated to a trip to Gullivers Theme Park in MK, the last outing of the year. Thanks to donations from parents and businesses for the sponsored events in the year, we are able to arrange free trips for the children to Zoomania at Christmas, the eco farm in early summer and then

Gullivers (really for the parents and grandparents to experience stomach churning rides or just get wet in the water rides).

On the last day of term, we celebrated 16 'Cygnets' becoming 'Swans'. They start the next stage of their journey in their 'big' schools. We wish them the very best - it has been a pleasure nurturing them and seeing them develop in confidence and skills to take them forward positively. My thanks also to all staff and the committee for their commitment, support and hard work over a fabulous year.

**Cygnets accepts children from 2½ to 5 years old. We are open Mon - Fri, 38 weeks/year For all 3 to 4 year olds: Daily 8.30am to 1.30pm except Tuesday to 12.30pm For 2½ year olds: Daily 9am to 12pm except Tuesday to 12.30pm.**

If you would like your child to attend Cygnets, please visit us and ask to be added to our waiting list. For further details, email [cygnets.leader@gmail.com](mailto:cygnets.leader@gmail.com) or call 07563 783464. Dot Toler



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# WATERMEAD PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION & EXHIBITION

2019

Closing  
Date  
19th September

For all the problems we have had with recent planning decisions Watermead, with its lake and open land together with the wildlife they attract, remains a beautiful and photogenic place to live.

Last year having been impressed by the quality of some of the photos shown in the "All about Watermead" Facebook group, I suggested holding a Photographic Exhibition and Competition. The response was terrific and we received over 100 entries which when displayed covered an entire wall of the Village Hall.

Well known Aylesbury character and photographer, Ron Adams, judged the entries and was very impressed by the quality. So, this year we will be holding another competition and exhibition. Long term residents will know that this has been done in the past, but now the evolution of digital photography and the inclusion of a camera in mobile phones means that everyone can be a photographer.

In fact, several of the category winners and the overall winning shot were taken using phone cameras.

## COMPETITION

There will again be 3 categories:

**Watermead Landscapes:** Our beautiful landscape changes not only with the seasons but also with variations of light throughout the day.

**Watermead Wildlife:** Our resident and visiting birds provide lots of opportunities not to mention deer, foxes and mink.

**Open Category:** This can include photos of any subject you choose. Places visited on holiday, local events, portraits or candid photos of friends and family, pets, garden flowers are just some of the things which might inspire that special shot. But we would particularly welcome those including people.

All Entries should be in the form of prints at A4 size or approximate.

The competition is open to all residents of Watermead who may submit up to two entries in each category. We would also welcome photographs for the exhibition from non-residents.

**Closing Date:** Prints to be delivered to Noreen Shardlow at 11 Ayleswater, no later than 12 noon on **Thursday 19th September**. Please affix a sticky label to the back with your name and contact phone number as well as the category. There will be some small prizes in each category plus a cup for the overall winner. In addition, your photograph may be printed on the front cover of the Village View parish magazine and/or included in the 2020 Watermead calendar.

**Exhibition Date:** **Saturday 21st September**, Village Hall, The Piazza. Doors Open 12.30pm. Any questions should be addressed to [ericrosewpc@aol.com](mailto:ericrosewpc@aol.com)

# The Great Wall of China

**We had arranged a family trip to Australia to meet up with some long lost relatives and found that, at the time of booking, Air China were offering the best prices of all the international airlines. So, in a way by chance, but also because we had always wanted to go, we were now going to be able to spend some time in China.**

The place that we all wanted to see was the Great Wall of China which I guess is also the top of the list for most people going to China for the first time.

We had a 36 hour stopover on our way to Sydney so we decided that, rather than go into Beijing, we would travel directly to Mutianyu, north of the capital, leaving central Beijing for our return stopover.

We arrived in Beijing Airport after a 10 hour flight feeling a little weary, but by the time we got to our taxi we were even more jaded after trying to conquer the temporary entry permit system.

No matter, we were soon on our way travelling along splendid roads to our hotel in Mutianyu.

We were booked into a small house away from the main hotel which was great as it was in walking distance of the Wall.

After a good night's sleep we arose, and from the corner of our garden we were able to see our first glimpse of the Wall running along the beautiful mountain ridges.

Following a quick breakfast, we walked through the village and made our way to the cable car pick up point.

In no time we were high in the mountains with the vista opening up below us, and with the Great Wall looming larger and larger before us the higher we went.

We finally arrived on the Wall and were surprised to see that it was not as overcrowded as we thought it might be, even

though it was a Sunday and a beautiful day, about 18 degrees with not a cloud in the sky – lucky us!

Once you are on the Wall you have to pinch yourself, as you are on an iconic monument, something that you have seen in pictures or heard about for most of your life (and no, you cannot see it from space!!) and it is quite simply stunning.

It was pure endeavour that has created this 13,000 mile wall 2,300 years ago and the rulers recruited the people who worked on it. These included soldiers, peasants, prisoners of war and convicts whose sentences could be passed down "in perpetuity" so that when the father died his son would have to take his place on the Wall.

As the Wall follows the high ridges of the mountains the view of the surrounding landscape is wonderful, augmented by the ever present Wall running away into the far distance until it disappears into the mountain mist. It is a truly spectacular vision, capped by wonderful silence.

Walking the wall can be a little daunting at times and you have to have your wits about you, as you struggle with uneven steps, very steep climbs, and no handrails to speak of.

It would not be recommended to someone from the UK Health and Safety inspectorate!

Climbing up steep steps to the lookout posts, which were some soldiers' homes for many months, or maybe years, and that there were probably up to 10,000 posts, just makes you realise the enormity of it all.

We spent a wonderful day walking the wall and finally reached our exit point which, as if the day had not been exciting enough, the resourceful Chinese had decided to build a Luge to whisk you back to the village. The 1,600 meter long aluminium toboggan run is just the greatest way to get you down a mountain where you basically sit on a large

tray with a handle between your feet which you push forward to let off the "brake" and pull it back to you to try and stop it.

By now that poor old Health and Safety chap would be having kittens.

Stuart Mackay, April 2019







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## Arthritis in pets

**Could your pet be arthritic? Has he/she slowed down, not been wanting to jump up or sleeping more?**

Arthritis causes chronic pain. Generally dogs and cats don't yelp or vocalise in pain at all until the signs progress. There are many subtle signs that animals can show if they are suffering from arthritis. A mild change of gait or posture can be seen, as they tend to compensate instead of showing an obvious lameness. Animals can lick or chew over the site of discomfort. Some signs will be as mild as sleeping more or being unable to settle. As it progresses animals can be more subdued, reluctant to play and become grumpy with owners and other pets.

80% of dogs over 8 years of age and 20% of dogs over 1 year will have arthritic changes. Arthritis and joint pain are a major cause of elective euthanasia (typically "off back legs") with 12.5% of dogs being put to sleep due to musculoskeletal pain. 25% of Labradors are put to sleep because of arthritis.

Arthritis is a disease of the whole dog – it starts in joint(s) but goes on to affect the whole musculoskeletal system. It is better to be proactive than reactive. Prolonged unidentified periods of chronic pain leads to loss of muscle mass, shift in gait and eventually the inability to stand. Usually the back legs are affected first, so these should be regularly assessed. Trauma, obesity and joint deformations can all lead to inflammation of the joint, which in turn leads to arthritis.

Multimodal management is the best way to manage animals with arthritis which includes:

- Pain relief – Usually non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) with or without extra pain relief as needed
- Weight control - less weight means less stress on the joints.
- There are specific diets high in joint supplements (such as JD by Hills), or other supplements containing omega 3 can be added to the normal diet.
- Appropriate exercise - short

regular walks which are consistent (for example, not a long walk at weekends after not doing much in the week)

- Environment/lifestyle changes - non slip matting or rugs/carpets can aid arthritic pets when rising and walking, especially on slippery floors such as laminate or wood. Ramps and doggy steps can help to avoid big jumps. Climbing stairs should be avoided; the use of a stair gate or being carried up and down can help. Keeping nails short is an easy change, so weight is put on the leg efficiently and is not as slippery. For larger dogs, feeding from a height can help avoid neck and back pain. Avoiding ball games can help prevent any arthritis worsening, as the repetition and sudden movements with change of direction can put more strain onto the joints. Sometimes assisted mobility is needed, such as slings and wheelchairs, or the occasional use of a buggy.
- Complimentary therapies -

such as physiotherapy/laser treatment/hydrotherapy can also help.

Cats are a lot more subtle in any signs they show compared to dogs. They could have mild lifestyle changes, such as sleeping more, no longer going out and hunting or not using cat post/climbing trees. They often become grumpier in themselves. As the pain worsens they often stop grooming themselves, as it's more difficult and painful to turn around to reach their lower half.

Older animals or any animal slowing down should be regularly assessed to pick up on early signs of joint and muscle pain, or to determine what management techniques are helping to improve an animal's quality of life.

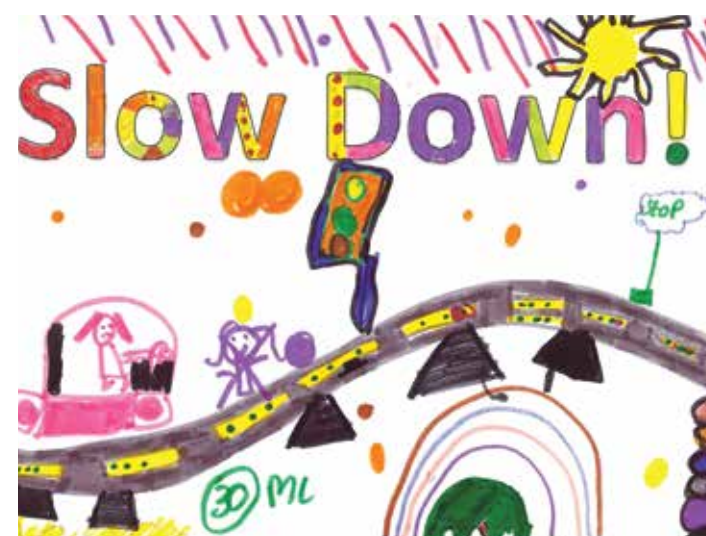
*This information is given by Dr Kelly Gore at Hampden Veterinary Hospital. For any information or advice contact 01296 745373 or call in to see them in The Piazza or in Aylesbury.*

## Children's speed sign competition

**Watermead children are invited to submit designs for anti-speeding signs. The winning designs will be reproduced as speed signs and placed throughout Watermead.** Designs need to be drawn on A4 paper in colour for best reproduction. The winners will receive a small prize and their designs will be published in the next Village View.

Entries to Noreen Shardlow, Parish Clerk – call 01296 395211 to arrange to deliver your entry by 30th September, or you can deliver your entry to the Village Hall, Lakeside but please do not fold your drawing and place in an envelope marked Speed Sign Competition.

Winners will be judged by our local Policing team. Some of the winning designs drawn by children at Green Ridge Academy are shown below.



## Christmas Gift Fair

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### Answers to Tea Break Quiz on page 07

1. Lisbon, 2. The Crown Jewels, 3. Noel Coward, 4. Dog licence, 5. Winston Graham, 6. The Sistine Chapel, 7. Bits and pieces, 8. In private, 9. Terence Conran, 10. Peach & plum, 11. OXO, 12. Cary Grant, 13. In the morning, 14. Vitamin D, 15. Martin Luther King, 16. Sioux, 17. 4, 18. France (de Nimes), 19. Tutankhamen's Tomb, 20. 1973



# Watermead front garden competition

**A**t the beginning of the year we suggested the acclaimed Mirabell Gardens in Salzburg as the theme and source of inspiration for this year's summer garden competition. The truth is that some of the front gardens in Watermead village just look fabulous and are an inspiration in themselves. This year's showstopper and overall winner has to be 7 Nuthatch. The arrangements and clever use of the litter bin and the wellies simply bring this garden a step ahead of the rest. The more time you spend looking at this garden, the more you discover. It is not just a garden regarded as one unit, it is a puzzle and many perspectives harmoniously linked together.

The bench, the hanging basket holder, all looked great together. It is not the largest of the gardens we have seen, however it is for sure the most attractive and interesting. There is, certainly, some competition going on in that hidden corner of the village, as the next door neighbour's garden (**6 Nuthatch**) was also attractive. The flower bed built in front of the property was presented as an explosion of colour.

Another favourite this year and, in fact, a favourite for the past three years, has been **9 The Osprey**. There could not possibly be a tidier and neater arrangement. This garden reminds me of one of the arrangements you can admire at the Ideal Home Show at London Olympia. An impeccable garden popped out of the box. Sun, water, and extreme weather defiant. Always tidy and welcoming. Further competition can be witnessed at neighbouring 11 Osprey whose lovely hanging baskets and colourful display of petunia is very attractive.

We were particularly impressed by the bee garden at **51 Lark Vale**. Its owner, Christine, pays particular attention to the plants she chooses which encourage the bees. Both her flower pots and flower beds are always well looked after and colourful.

For the first time this year our attention was drawn to a few colourful balconies. Quite a few flat owners have used their imagination and created a mini garden inside the balcony.

Well done to the resident of **4 Guillemot Court!**

Also worth mentioning are the beautiful and interesting front gardens at **10 Kestrel Way, 4 Waterlily, 6 Goldcrest, 11 The Falcon and 3 Guillemot Way.**

Three hanging baskets and the fabulous begonia at **57 Kestrel Way** were impressive. Well done!

If you think your garden has what it takes, and it has not been mentioned in this edition of the Watermead Front Gardens Competition, please feel free to send us your own photographs and we will make sure we publish the best. In fact, it would be a great idea to have a special section dedicated to our beautiful gardens at the next photographic competition. *Irina Schwab*



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# Watermead allotments Winners 2019

**I** can only start this year's report by repeating my admiration for the work that has been put in by all our intrepid allotment holders. Setting up on a site which was just a rough field a few years ago was never going to be easy; the soil was poor and there needed to be a constant battle against the return of the grass and weeds which once occupied the field. This last point was underlined by the fact that several of the past winning plots have become overgrown after just one year. However, despite these factors, Watermead Allotments are thriving as the photographs below demonstrate.

Most of the plots have some form of raised or contained bed often with the import of topsoil and there is also widespread use of plastic matting to suppress weeds.

Wild animals, including deer, enjoy the opportunity to vary their diet with some tender young vegetables and a number of plot holders, including this year's winner, have erected fences, which, although strictly against the rules, seem to be a sensible and practical solution.

My judgement is purely personal. As I have said I am impressed by the work put in by everybody and, as a former allotment holder, I know just a week or two away can allow weeds to invade an otherwise well cultivated plot. The photographs were all taken during my judging visit on July 3rd.

I've given the names of the plot holders as on Parish Council files, but I am aware that in most cases there is a team effort with partners, friends or even whole families also involved.

**Overall winner** - My winner for this year is plot 45 (Diana Lee). It presents a very neat appearance with extensive use of woodchips in between the beds to suppress weeds and surrounded by a light fence to keep animals out. The quality of the crops at the time of my visit was outstanding and I must confess to sampling the peas which were as sweet and tender as any I have ever had.

**Highly Commended** - There were several other close contenders with excellent crops and signs of very hard work being put in by which I would consider Highly Commended.

Plot 44 (Tim Baldwin)

**The double plot 5 & 26 (Alan Williams & Jane Tophill)** - This was well set out by the previous owner who has now retired. The couple who have taken over have continued the excellent work.

**Plot 29 Sheree & Colin Smith** - Lots of variety including some fine fruit

I am very proud to have been responsible, along with former Parish Clerk Glyn Thomas, for setting up the Watermead Allotments and delighted at how they have developed. I am grateful for all the work put in by Noreen Shardlow, our current Parish Clerk, and Peter Smith, Chairman of the Watermead Gardening Society. Having judged the allotments for the last 4 years, and in view of the fact that my current term as Parish Councillor ends in 2020, I feel that it is time to hand over next year's judging to someone else. Once again congratulations to everyone for the hard work, fine crops, and for creating such a vibrant little community.

Cllr Eric Rose



Winner!



Plot 44



Plot 5 & 26



# Halloween

**H**ave fun during Halloween and Bonfire Night, but don't be influenced by others into doing things that may seem minor at the time – your actions could have a massive impact on not only people inside their house, but on your life as well.

Police will be carrying out patrols in the evenings to make sure that people who are trick-or-treating are doing so in a friendly manner and not causing a nuisance.

For some people, this time of the year can be a bother as your evenings are interrupted with people knocking on your doors for treats. Most of these children or teenagers are just getting involved in the Halloween celebrations and will be friendly. If you feel unsafe:

- Don't open your door if you're unsure who is there. Use your spyhole, look out of a window, and use your door chain if you do decide to open your door.
- Have a contact number of a close relative or good neighbour to hand by your telephone, just in case you need to phone them.
- If you are part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, let your coordinator know that you will be on your own at Halloween. If you are a coordinator, please identify people in your scheme that may be vulnerable and offer them reassurance.

Thames Valley Police will not tolerate any anti-social behaviour at any time of the year.

To report anti-social behaviour, call 101, the 24-hour Thames Valley Police non-emergency number. If you feel threatened, if it's an emergency, or if a crime is in progress, call 999.

Further information at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/seasonal-events-halloween](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/seasonal-events-halloween).



# Book review

## Kate Zarelli: Tuscan Enchantment

**H**ands up if you've read Fifty Shades of Grey. I only ask because I wouldn't normally expect to review in the respectable pages of Village View an "Erotic Romance" (which is the marketing spiel for what our parents would have called "a dirty book"). I haven't read Fifty Shades (honestly, guvnor); the last rude(ish) book I read, some years ago, was by Jackie Collins, God rest her. Jackie C and others like her laid the groundwork for EL James (Mrs Fifty) who has pushed the envelope a shade (sorry) further. Harlequin, the owners of Mills & Boon, now publish spicy stories under the Desire and Dare brands which would make Barbara Cartland fall off her famously pink sofa in shock.

Tuscan Enchantment is published by eXstasy Books, a US version of Harlequin's

Dare. I read it – and commend it you, dear readers – because Kate Zarelli and I became friends last year after meeting up on a writing course. She's Irish and lives on the Tuscan coast. I'm clearly not the most qualified reviewer of Erotic Romances, but Kate's book is a little gem.

Antonia, a 'Sleeping Beauty' English librarian, emotionally scarred by a heartless lover, takes refuge in a research job in Italy and falls for her employer's nephew Lorenzo, a magnificently gorgeous Italian stallion (the 'Bobby Ewing' cover doesn't do his gorgeousness justice!). Lorenzo's ex, a Swiss beauty with a heart of ice, casts a shadow over their happiness.

Kate Zarelli's style, polished and elegant, put me in mind of Daphne Du Maurier's Rebecca. She breathes Tuscan warmth and perfume into the pages of the story.

The saucy scenes are intense and sensuous with none of the sledgehammer crudity of Jackie Collins or (I'm told) Mrs James. I'd like to think Tuscan Enchantment is very much at the Quality end of the Romance bookshelf.

David Gee



# Don't go with a bang this bonfire night

Thames Valley Police and the Fire and Rescue Services across Thames Valley are urging people to take extra care at Bonfire Night parties.

Having your own fireworks party or celebrating with family and friends can be great fun. But by far the safest way to enjoy these seasonal activities is to attend a professionally organised event.

We want everyone to enjoy a safe and trouble-free Bonfire Night and are working closely with Trading Standards to ensure fireworks aren't sold to those who are under 18.

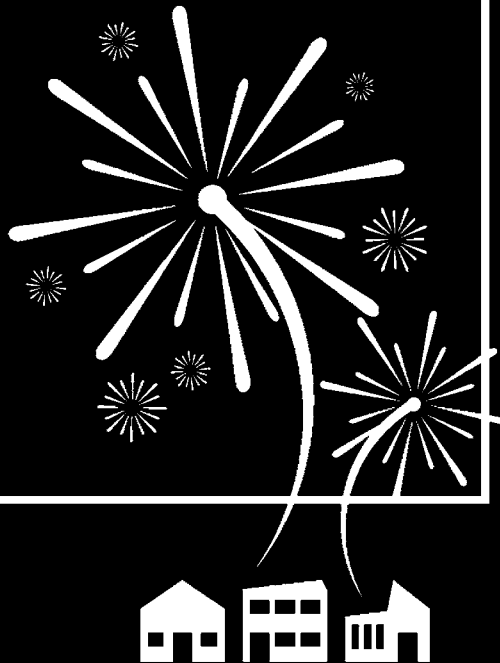
Please think of others and remember that fireworks shouldn't be let off between 11pm and 7am.

If you are holding your own fireworks party please don't put your family or friends at risk, follow the safety advice below for a safe home display.

## Always remember to follow the fireworks code

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper
- Stand well back
- Never go near a firework that has been lit
- Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Keep pets indoors

More information can be found on the Thames Valley Police website [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)





# Recipes for Autumn

## Lobster and prawn rosti pie (Serves 6)

**Ingredients**  
6 large potatoes  
50g butter melted

**For the filling:**  
50g butter,  
50g plain flour,  
1 tsp English mustard powder,  
1 tbsp sundried tomato paste,  
200 ml milk,  
200 ml fish stock,  
150 ml double cream,  
50g mature Cheddar cheese, grated,  
250g spinach,  
400g raw tiger prawns, peeled,  
2 lobster tails, shelled and thickly sliced,  
200g baby scallops

**Method**  
1. Heat the oven to 200C/Gas mark 6. Put the unpeeled potatoes for the topping in a pan of cold water, bring to the boil and cook for 10 mins until starting to soften at the edges. Drain and set aside.  
2. Line a baking tray with baking parchment. Coarsely grate 1 potato onto the tray to create a mound. Repeat with remaining potatoes. Season and drizzle with the melted butter. Bake for 20 mins to firm up.  
3. Meanwhile, to make the sauce, melt butter in a pan. Add the flour, mustard and tomato paste, and cook to a thick paste. Gradually whisk in the milk and stock, and simmer for a few mins to make a smooth, thick sauce. Remove

from the heat and stir in the cream and cheese. Season with salt and freshly ground pepper and set aside.  
4. Microwave the spinach for 2 mins until wilted. Drain and squeeze out any excess liquid. Put the spinach, prawns, lobster and scallops in a large baking dish and pour the sauce over the top.  
5. Pile the partially cooked rosti potato mounds over the filling. Bake for 40 mins until the topping is golden and the filling is bubbling.

NB I couldn't find lobster tails so replaced this with a pack of fish pie mix and used half the quantity of prawns. The result was delicious!

**Cauliflower cheese with Camembert (Serves 6)**  
Before baking you can freeze this. Then defrost and bake when you need it.

**Ingredients**  
2 large cauliflower heads, broken into large, even-sized florets,  
100g butter,  
50g plain flour,  
1 tsp dried English mustard powder,  
Pinch of cayenne pepper,  
500 ml milk,  
100g Gruyere or mature Cheddar, grated,  
250g Camembert, thickly sliced,  
3 tbsp dry white breadcrumbs

**Method**  
1. Heat the oven to 220C/Gas mark 7. Steam the cauliflower

florets for 4-5 mins or until just tender. Allow to dry and cool while you make the cheese sauce.  
2. Melt half the butter in a saucepan over a medium heat, then add the flour, mustard powder and cayenne pepper, stirring to make a thick paste. Cook for 2 mins, stirring continuously. Remove from the heat and pour in a little milk, stirring until the mixture looks smooth but very thick. Put back on the heat and gradually add all the milk, stirring constantly until smooth. Bring to the boil and simmer, stirring, for 3-4 mins or until thickened.  
3. Remove the pan from the heat, crumble in the Gruyere or Cheddar and stir until melted. Arrange the florets in a buttered baking dish, then pour over the sauce, top with the Camembert and breadcrumbs and dot on the remaining butter. Bake for 30 mins until bubbling and golden on top.

Note: The two recipes above were taken from Woman and Home magazine, December 2018

**Syllabub (Serves 4)**

**Ingredients**  
1 large egg white,  
50g caster sugar,  
Large pinch of finely grated lemon rind,  
2 tsp lemon juice,  
4 tbsp dry white wine,  
150 ml double cream,  
Lemon slices to decorate

**Method**  
1. Beat the egg white until very stiff. Fold in the caster sugar, lemon rind and juice, and wine.  
2. Whip the cream until thick but not too stiff and fold evenly through the mixture.  
3. Spoon into two tall glasses and leave to stand in a cool place for several hours to allow the mixture to separate.  
4. Decorate with lemon twists and serve with 'langue de chat' biscuits.

Note: Dry cider can be used in place of white wine.

# Soul Space

**I'm Holly Miller, local wife, mama and business owner. Relaxation, meditation and self care have become a huge part of my life in the last few years, especially since being diagnosed with postnatal anxiety; I have found that they are invaluable tools when battling everyday life. I realised there is a real lack of this kind of group; the end bit of yoga but for an entire class.....** So on Wednesday 31st July 2019, 8-9pm we will have our first Soul Space Meet at Watermead Village Hall. The sessions will be weekly except for the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Bring along a yoga mat, pillow and blanket and join us for some guided relaxation followed by an open space for sharing anything that might be on your mind. You can expect to leave feeling relaxed, calm and at one with yourself. Prebooking is advised as we anticipate we can only really fit up to 20 in the hall at any given time, but we would love to see you there! It's £5 per session. Please contact **Holly Miller via Facebook or on 07845 435619** to find out more details.

# Sally's Blog

**This summer has been hard for spaniels in the heat. Why? We are quite hairy and have to be bathed and clipped on a regular basis.** Add to this the monthly torture of a cold liquid on the back of our necks to prevent fleas, constant brushing and combing of our ears. High maintenance – us! We're lucky to have such lovely humans (they told me to say that).  
The dog show at Larks by the Lake was well attended by many, many friends. I wasn't allowed to take part because my human was a judge but I know I'd have won – possibly not the best trained dog, although if there had been a class for the best trained human I'd have won, without doubt! It was lovely to see so many dogs in Watermead showing off their unique talents for walking to heel or just being wonderful companions.  
So far this summer I have managed to avoid broken glass and other dangers so I am hoping for the best. Please pick up your litter; if you leave it dogs and other animals can eat it, or step in it, as with dog poo. It's horrible. I did have a strange morning when one of my back legs was sore and I couldn't walk on it. Of course my humans took me to the vet immediately (even though it was Sunday morning) and they gave me some painkillers which worked very well. I'm

pleased to say I am now fully recovered.  
My next treat is going to the County Show at the end of August. I love this. In my opinion it is a top dog's day out. There are lots of dogs to meet, many humans to stare at until they stop to admire me, watch the horses been shown and jumping, cows, sheep and hounds, and miles of walking during the day looking at all the stalls. Our humans decamp to the car park for a very long picnic around lunchtime which allows the dogs to have a rest before we start again to watch the afternoon entertainment. It comes round so quickly. I cannot believe I am now 4 and this is my fourth year. I think they should have dog member badges – I may suggest it.  
The other good news is that we can now walk at Waddesdon Manor and even go on the bus – my humans are currently debating the wisdom of taking me on the bus but I know I will be a hit. I could either sit quietly under the seat (unlikely) or maybe just howl or woof, I'm considering my options. The only thing is if I make the wrong decision I will be taken off the bus and made to walk – good call, don't you think?  
Enjoy the rest of your summer. I am due to go on holiday soon to the wonder stud where I will run and run for two weeks. I will be very tired when I get back but it is fun to

be with other dogs for all the time.  
My cousin Ronnie is often with us, but it's different when you're together all day.  
See you all soon. *Sally the Spaniel*





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# Bird watching in Watermead



Main: Heron taking flight  
Right: Female Mandarin  
Far Right: Great Spotted Woodpecker.  
All shots taken by Eric Rose



June Dorr snapped this picture of a swan with her four cygnets. She, her cob and cygnets moved in a couple of days previously - they apparently moved from the pond over the road in Buckingham Park and the traffic had to be held up on the main road while they waddled across! They now appear to have taken up residence on our small lake.



Cleo Conway-Bence snapped this picture of very large carp in the small lake (close to the walkway) in July. On the same day the editor spotted a mallard with 5 tiny ducklings in the water next to the bandstand.



Goose creche

**The Canada Geese were very successful in their breeding this year, one couple having eight goslings, another had four, and another had two and there were possibly more.** It was interesting to see that these parents all got together with their goslings to form a sort of “creche”. I thought this was rather clever as they were better able to protect their young and this proved quite successful.

We also saw quite a few ducklings, lots of baby coots and a few moorhens on both lakes. These all give our keen photographers lots of photo opportunities.

We have also had some female Mandarin Ducks on the small lake. They have been “hanging out” with the mallards. One of our mallards was seen to have a growth on his face. Megan May Bess was so concerned about this duck she eventually managed to catch it and took it to Tiggiwinkles where they operated on it. This was successful and the duck was able to be returned to the lake.

We reported in our Summer issue that our swan, who had made a fabulous nest in the small lake and laid eight eggs, had to be rescued after the cob died and was no longer there to protect her. She was taken to Tiggiwinkles along with her eggs and made comfortable there in a room with a pool. The eggs were incubated and all hatched within a couple of days. I was told that she was a very good mother. After a few weeks the swan and her cygnets were rehomed at a sanctuary on the Thames.

It wasn’t long before a pair of swans with four cygnets moved in. I believe they came over from Buckingham Park.

On 18th July I was taking my dog, Ronnie, for a walk at lunchtime and, as we passed the bandstand, I could see one of the swans either trying to help or attacking what I thought was a cygnet. I rushed over and found a young Canada Goose had its leg caught in the wooden surround. I managed to release it but the swan charged towards me with flapping wings which was rather scary. However, I waved my arms and the swan stood back so that I could pick up the gosling which I carried back to my house – not easy with a very inquisitive dog on a lead in the other hand. I put the gosling into a cat basket and then transported it to Tiggiwinkles. It seemed OK despite its ordeal but I suspected its wing was damaged. A while later I called to see how it was and it turned out that he had a deformity called Angel Wing which is apparently quite common in ducks and geese and can’t be treated. He could not be returned to the wild so will be spending the rest of his days in the swan sanctuary where I am told they have wonderful facilities for permanent residents.

If you should come across any distressed wildlife, you can take it to Tiggiwinkles wildlife hospital who take emergencies at any time of the day or night. Their address is Aston Road, Haddenham HP17 8AF or, if you can’t transport the animal, call them on 01844 292292. They welcome donations of money and pet food.

Mary Singleton (Editor)

# Netta’s report

**Unitary Council** Things are progressing well - members from the four districts and the county council are working well together. It was interesting to see so many parish councils represented at the Transport stakeholder conference on 25th June. The majority were keen to take on devolved services.

## Changes to the home to school transport policy

In March 2019 Cabinet agreed a series of changes to the Home to School transport policy. This was the result of a public consultation which ran from 31st October 2018 to 4th January 2019. The consultation received over 2,308 responses.

From September 2019 we will be:

- ending free home to school transport for students with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) aged over 16; transport arrangements will still be made by the Council but we will be asking for a contribution towards costs.
- charging for students with SEND (aged between 16 and 19) based on banding according to the distance travelled – see further information below
- increasing the allocation of independent travel training for eligible young people aged 16 to 18 years old

From the September 2020 intake we will remove discretionary free transport in the Evreham and Ivinghoe areas. This will be phased in and existing travellers will be unaffected. See further information below.

As background, the cabinet meeting on 4th March 2019 discussed and approved the school transport changes. Details about all these changes can be found on the website [www.buckscc.gov.uk/schooltransportchanges](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/schooltransportchanges)

## Introduction of transport charges for students with SEND aged 16-19

From September 2019 the County Council will introduce a ‘banded fee’ for students with SEND using home to school transport services. We have already written to parents affected by this change and have held four information sessions for parents and carers to understand more about the changes and what financial support is available. This is all detailed on our website at the link above.

Here are the charges being put in place:

Band	Distance from home to school	Annual charge
1	Under 4 miles	£706.00
2	4 to 4.99 miles	£823.60
3	5 to 6.99 miles	£941.20
4	7 to 9.99 miles	£1,060.90
5	10 miles or more	£1,179.55

Arrangements have been put in place to ensure that transport will be arranged as usual in September 2019 if families are awaiting decisions on applications for financial assistance or an appeal. These families will be asked to provide the transport team with evidence that the application has been made and is in progress. We will review the charges once a year alongside our mainstream transport charges.

## HS2

Both AVDC and Bucks CC have debated HS2 and there was unanimous support to request leaders to write to Secretary of State to ask him to delay work on the project. What started this was the netting of hedges and the destruction of wildlife habitats. These debates are webcast.

“Whilst supporters of HS2 pretend construction has started, the DfT has confirmed that only the highly destructive enabling works are taking place, years behind schedule. Construction and the release of full funds cannot happen until HS2 Ltd gets notice to proceed, by passing “Management Capability, Affordability of Contracts and Robustness of Revised Business Case” tests. If it is tested impartially on these bases, I believe it will fail all of them and be cancelled, so they should stop causing damage now.”

For more local HS2 information go to: [www.hs2inbucksandoxfordshire.commonplace.is/](http://www.hs2inbucksandoxfordshire.commonplace.is/)

Cllr Netta Glover

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

### Watermead Wilderness Working Group Day

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

9:45am-15:00pm

### Volunteer Information – Managing Watermead’s Wild Side

Vale Countryside Volunteers is a working party set up to care for and protect the wildlife and countryside of Aylesbury Vale. We are pleased to announce that this organization has agreed to have another working day at Watermead. They will bring tools and a core of skilled members but we also need some local volunteers to help them.

**Meeting Point: Balloon Meadow by Memorial Garden**

For further information please contact Watermead Parish Council 01296 395211

Photo credit: Cllr E. Rose

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See our Facebook page for up-to-date information



# Friars Aylesbury, “Europe’s biggest music club out in the Sticks”, is Fifty! .....

**Friars, the local music club that rocked the world, is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. This year many of the artists that featured in the club’s heyday are performing at the Waterside, and the person responsible for pulling all this together is none other than the man himself, Friars founding father and promoter, David Stopps, who has made a huge effort to preserve and promote the legacy of this local jewel of music history.**



**Phase 1 - Monday 2nd June 1969.** Monday 2nd June 1969. Friars club presented its first gig at the New Friarage Hall in Walton Street, featuring folk singer Mike Cooper and prog rock band Mandrake Paddle Steamer. It made a loss of £35, which was a lot in those days! Most Monday nights during the next twelve months featured bands that would become some of the greatest names in rock and pop, including Genesis, Black Sabbath, Free, Mott The Hoople, King Crimson, Hawkwind, Pretty Things, Atomic Rooster, Renaissance and Van Der Graaf Generator, to name but a few. Friars also organised gigs in other locations, notably Pink Floyd in Dunstable, from which they made enough money to see them through till the last gig of the first phase featuring Argent in July 1970, after which The New Friarage Hall permission was rescinded. But they didn’t give up!

**Phase 2** - The club was re-established at the Borough Assembly Hall (cheekily referred to as the “Friars Auditorium”) and the first gig was on Saturday 17th April 1971 featuring Groundhogs. The acts that followed are firmly established in the British hall of rock fame, making their names at

Friars, or getting a further boost on their way up, including David Bowie, Southern Comfort, Fleetwood Mac, Lindisfarne, East of Eden, Atomic Rooster, Sutherland Brothers and Quiver, Barclay James Harvest, Arthur Brown, Osibisa, Caravan, Lou Reed, Roxy Music, Wizzard, Focus, Vinegar Joe, Average White Band, Cockney Rebel, Queen, Manfred Mann’s Earth Band, Gong, Sailor, Doctor Feelgood, Camel, Andy Fairweather Low and, of course, Aylesbury’s own local heroes John Otway and Willy Barrett!

Friars built an excellent reputation for mixing established and emerging acts. When you look back at 1972, it’s incredible to think that Aylesbury had a summer of Bowie, Lou Reed and Roxy Music! Also in 1972, Osibisa unwittingly caused controversy when a couple of the audience took their clothes off and made the front page of the local news! The David Bowie gig in the summer of ‘72 is still, forty years later, regarded by many as the finest gig ever seen at Friars.

Friars reached its fourth birthday in 1973 and featured special tributes from two Friars legends, Mott the Hoople and Genesis. Genesis thanked David Stopps and Friars Aylesbury by presenting (via Paul Conroy of Charisma Records) a trophy for the support they received in getting them on the road to fame. They came back and performed again at Friars in 1980 as global superstars!

By the time Friars had reached its fifth birthday in 1974, it was featuring in both local and national press.

With the building of the new Civic Centre, yards from the Borough Assembly Hall, after some prolonged haggling over whether or not private promoters should be allowed to

use it, Friars was ready for this major venue opportunity!

**Phase 3 - From September 1975** From September 1975 Friars moved to Vale Hall, Civic Centre, Aylesbury. With a capacity over 50% higher than the Borough Assembly Hall, each year saw a production that became the biggest in Friars history until trumped the following year by an even bigger one! Camel, who could no longer have fitted their gigs into Borough Assembly Hall anyway, could easily be accommodated at the Civic Centre, and the band featured as probably the biggest production of 1975.

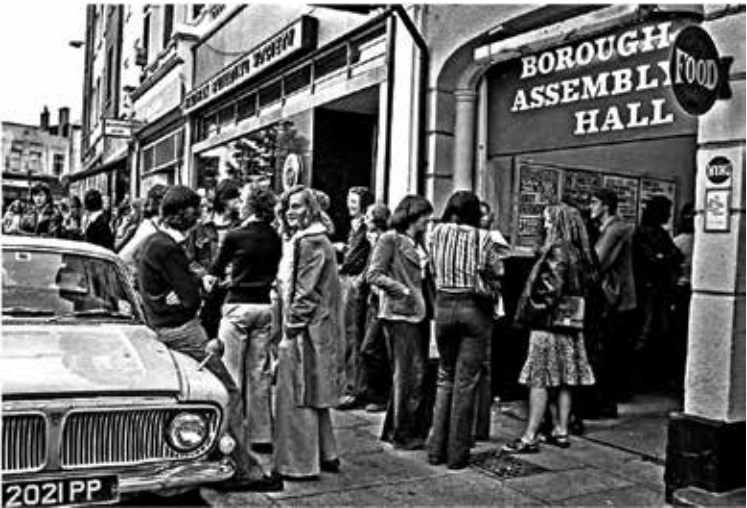
The burgeoning local rock scene was getting noticed in the new Aylesbury Roxette magazine which launched in July 1976.

In 1977, Vale Hall was renamed Maxwell Hall in honour of Councillor Reg Maxwell.

In 1978, Steve Hackett won production honours for the biggest lighting, sound and equipment rig so far. Also in 1978 an interesting experiment paid off; Friars had been involved in previous free gigs at Rabans Lane, but the Open Air Otway event in the Market Square attracted around twenty thousand people and was filmed and broadcast on ITV.

Back at Maxwell Hall, in 1979 Gary Numan’s massive fluorescent lighting towers set the new standard, but in 1980 this was well and truly trumped by Genesis. As for the biggest gig (excluding the aforementioned free Otway gig), that honour falls to The Clash, who performed to two thousand people at Stoke Mandeville Stadium sports hall in 1982.

The caring side of Friars was highlighted locally and nationally for the way the sales



for the highly prestigious 1980 Genesis and 1982 Police gigs were handled, with people camped down peacefully all night in the cattle market, and featuring on local TV news.

Friars should also take a lot of credit for the risks it took putting on successful gigs by The Clash and Sham 69 in 1978/79 when every council outside of Aylesbury banned these acts.

Bands performing over the nine years of Phase 3 read like a who’s who of rock and pop history, including Doctor Feelgood, Procol Harem, Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel, Manfred Mann’s Earth Band, Fairport Convention, Curved Air, Andy Fairweather Low, Sailor, Hawkwind, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Motorhead, Blondie, The Jam, Osibisa, Talking Heads, Gallagher and Lyle, The Buzzcocks, Ian Dury and the Blockheads, The Clash, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Steel Pulse, Tom Robinson, Ultravox, XTC, The Undertones, The Police, The Pretenders, Peter Gabriel, Madness, Iggy Pop, Def Leppard, Selecter, Bad Manners, The Specials, The Kinks, Rory Gallagher, Toots and the Maytals, OMD, Adam and the Ants, Lindisfarne, Slade, Gary Glitter, Echo and the Bunnymen, The Beat, U2, King Crimson, Human League, Dave Edmunds, Squeeze, Simple Minds, Kid Creole and the Coconuts, Howard Jones, Kajagoogoo, Eurythmics, Aswad and Paul Weller.

At the final gig on December 22nd 1984, around 11.30pm, one thousand two hundred and fifty people milled out of the Civic Centre having seen local heroes Marillion perform a stellar set, including a preview of what was to become their number one album “Misplaced Childhood”. As we all sauntered out of the building, there was no traditional Friars news-sheet being handed out advertising the next gig - there simply wasn’t one to plug. No matter, we all thought, this has happened before, something will come along - this is Friars after all, the epicentre of Aylesbury’s tasteful culture. Well, something did come along in March 1985 and not everyone really saw it coming. The front page of the Bucks Advertiser simply said.....THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED. David Stopps had announced that Friars, the legendary club out in the sticks which had played host to so many household names, was to close.

place, which was flattering but far from the real world.

For the next twenty five years Aylesbury saw occasional gigs at the Civic, promoted by the Council and others, including some well known bands such as Big Audio Dynamite, Squeeze, The Damned, Marillion, Howard Jones, Everything But The Girl and many more who conceivably would have played Friars, and had done in the past. But Aylesbury had somehow lost a bit of its soul. Perhaps it needed Friars more than it thought.

Friars 21st birthday in 1990 came and went as did the 30th anniversary in 1999. Would there ever be a Friars gig in Aylesbury again? This was what people were asking.

Fast forward to 2008 and it became obvious that the Civic Centre would need to stay open beyond its planned closure date in July due to the Waterside project slipping further behind, and an extension was granted until 2010. This was the news everyone wanted to hear because it meant that the fortieth anniversary party of Friars was on for June 2009. The twenty five years of waiting were over. Friars was indeed going to rise again! The new Friars website, which had kept the Friars name going, proudly announced that Friars was returning on Monday June 1st 2009, almost exactly forty years to the day since Mike Cooper and Mandrake Paddle Steamer trod the tiny stage at the Friarage Hall on Monday June 2nd 1969. What was going to happen? Top secret meetings took place between David Stopps, Robin Pike, Kris Needs, the webmaster, and Jam Central Records to plan what would be the first Friars gig in twenty five years. The decision was made to try to reflect the early golden era of Phase One and to keep it authentic, do the gig on a Monday night. The Pretty Things, so big in the sixties, were always contenders for headliner and a couple of other acts were sought. These choices were easy. Edgar Broughton Band who had played many times before and the band who literally saved Friars twice, The Groundhogs. Kris also sorted out the news-sheets like the good old days.

The event of people queuing up for tickets when they went on sale received press and BBC TV local news coverage. The headlines in the papers should have been THE DAY THE MUSIC WAS

REBORN!  
A truly emotional occasion, the gig was a tremendous success with all three artists being very well received, with The Pretty Things turning in a brilliant set and Edgar Broughton surprising a lot of people. Mandrake Paddle Steamer came along too and only logistics prevented Mike Cooper from coming. On the night, David Stopps announced to local TV reporters that there would be more Friars gigs to come.

**Rebirth/Phase 4** - After a break of over twenty five years, on Saturday 15th May 2010 it was announced that Friars would have a Phase Four era in the new Waterside Theatre, the biggest venue yet, and set to produce some very different and fantastic gigs. In 2013 Friars finally returned, with huge gigs by The Specials and Steve Hackett. The demand for The Specials was something we’d not seen in a very long time and the queue can be seen in the galleries section of the website.

**2014** saw the successful Friars exhibition at the Bucks County Museum and the return of Friars legends Stackridge.

**2015** saw King Crimson back at Friars and, for the first time, these gigs were all seated. It was also the first time (excluding The Jam’s matinee in 1977) that an artist played two consecutive nights at Friars.

**2016** saw King Crimson play their only UK dates at Friars Aylesbury.



**2017** saw Woody Woodmansey’s Holy Holy play Ziggy Stardust in full, and Marillion made a triumphant return.

**2018** saw remarkable gigs by Erasure and Camel, and the amazing David Bowie “Earthly Messenger” benefit gig, featuring Marillion, Howard Jones, John Otway and, Councillor Phil Toler’s band, The Dung Beatles!

**2019** is the fiftieth anniversary of Friars Aylesbury, and so far we have had The Vaccines, Nick Mason’s Saucerful of Secrets, Stiff Little Fingers and Steve Hackett. The Dung Beatles will again be performing at The Waterside, celebrating not only Friars fiftieth but also the release of “Abbey Road” - make a date in your diaries for 26th September, exactly fifty years to the day since that ground breaking album was launched!

www.aylesburyfriars.co.uk

Phil Toler



# Martin “Wolfie” Adams comes to the Watermead Inn

Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to the Watermead Inn for a fun night of darts in aid of Prostate Cancer research. One of our organisers has suffered from this cancer as well as our guest of honour. Prostate Cancer takes 11,000 men a year. We lose fathers, brothers and sons so we need all the money we can get to help fight this. All money raised tonight will go to the charity.

Now I've cheered you up, I'll tell you all about our special guest:  
**Three times BDO World Champion**  
**Three times BDO World Masters**  
He's won Open competitions all over the world, but can he beat the alcoholics of Aylesbury?  
Ladies and Gentlemen. Please put your hands together. Bang your feet. Spill your drinks and make some noise for the one and only MARTIN 'WOLFIE' ADAAAAAMS!

Your caller for the evening is Paul Philips and your chalker Martin Mileham.  
This was how the evening started on the 19th June and it ended in handshakes, smiles and promises to do it all again next year.  
Wolfie came to Watermead, and Aylesbury came to see him play. A fantastic night of darts with a raffle and great humour from our guest of honour. Martin enjoyed himself as he met old friends Ray Howse and Bob Manser with whom he used to play Bucks County darts as team mates back in the day.

Wolfie was only beaten twice (three times if you counted the generous lead he gave our very own Kristina 'The Slovak Assassin' Martinková) and he entertained by throwing darts backwards and also allowing couples to tag team him.  
A lovely, genuine man and we thank him

for giving up his time to give us a great night and to help raise money for a charity very close to his heart.  
Once all the money has been collected it will total over £2,500 for Prostate Cancer research. A huge thank you to all our players and sponsors and a special thank you to Sandy 'Greased Lightning' Murphy for bidding during the auction for a chance to play against Wolfie and then giving it to the chalker to play instead - nice touch.  
Paul Phillips and Martin Mileham did a wonderful job of officiating the evening- our thanks to both of them. And I would also like to thank Noreen Shardlow for giving up her time to play each player's chosen music to introduce them to the floor to face Martin "Wolfie" Adams for a match.

Graham 'Too Chicken To Play' Howse



Ray Howse with Martin



Bob Manser with Martin



Darts Caller Paul Phillips with Martin



Kelvin Wong with Martin "Wolfie" Adams



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### Watermead meadow creation day



The area of land next to the crematorium is now being turned into a wildflower meadow

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust are working alongside Watermead Parish Council to create a new haven for wildlife in Watermead as part of the Hedgerow Havens Project.

Interested to hear more or get involved? We'll be carrying out a big wildflower seed sowing day on **October 5th at 10am – Meet in the car park by Watermead Piazza**, bring along clothes you don't mind getting messy and a packed lunch. Tea and biscuits will be provided. We'd love to see you come along!

If you want to know more please contact Marcus Milittle:  
Email: [marcusmilittle@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:marcusmilittle@bbowt.org.uk) / 07955 855 732

[www.bbowt.org.uk](http://www.bbowt.org.uk)

Protecting local wildlife

## WATERMEAD REMEMBRANCE DAY 2019

Monday 11th November  
at 10.45am

Join members of our community to remember the fallen from all conflicts, from all countries. Meet at the Memorial Garden to observe the two minutes' silence together in quiet contemplation.

If you need any assistance with mobility issues or need to drive on to the field we will be pleased to help. Contact Noreen Shardlow 01296 395211 or email [noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:noreen.shardlow@watermead-pc.gov.uk)



## Watermead Pub Lunch Club

The Watermead Pub Lunch Club continues to attract on average 25 people who come along to enjoy a varied menu with a choice of 3 main courses, including one vegetarian, and a choice of 3 delicious desserts costing only £8 – such good value! We not only enjoy the food, but also meeting new people and chatting about all sorts of things.

The Club is aimed at anyone in the community especially those who may have been missing out on regular social contact. We now have a mixed group of 50 or so members of different ages and everyone appears to enjoy the food and the company.

If you would like to come to the monthly lunch which is held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12.30 pm at the Watermead Inn, or you know someone who might benefit from getting out and about a bit more, then please do get in touch. All you have to do is book at least a week in advance by calling **Mary Singleton on 07986 582903** or text her on that number providing your email address and she will provide you with all the information you need.

This is a Community Impact Bucks initiative and bookings can only be made through the local organiser whose contact details are given above.

Working together:



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# Random Person

**You could say it was a bicycle that brought Suzanne Staines to Watermead – but more of that later.** Suzanne

is originally from Staffordshire where she spent her early adult years studying fashion design at Art College. As well as the clothes that you might expect, the four year course covered designing shoes, handbags and other accessories, as well as the history of fashion. After college Suzanne worked in Birmingham for a fashion house called House of Le Rose.

During that time she used her skills and spare time to good effect, designing, making and embroidering robes for the vicar of the church she attended. (See picture).

An only child, Suzanne continued to live with her widowed mother, but her life outside of home included a holiday to Rhodes and Kos with a company called Solo – “holidays for independent people over 30”. It was a well organised holiday with planned trips out and about, one of which was a bike ride. Unfortunately, Suzanne had never learned to ride a bicycle, but one of the other holidaymakers offered to teach her so she wouldn't be left out.

Over the course of a day Len taught her to ride a bike. Eighteen months later they were engaged and 18 months after that, in 1993, they were married. (Suzanne hasn't been on a bicycle since!)

Len lived and worked in London – not an attractive proposition for country girl Suzanne – so they looked for somewhere a bit rural, but close enough to London for Len to commute. Watermead was an ideal location and they bought 'off plan'. They moved in as soon as they were married, with much building work still going on around them.

Suzanne gave up work – with a newly built house to be made into a home there was more than enough to keep her busy. But she still found time to pay regular visits to her mum, while Len – also an only child – went to London to visit his parents.

They settled in well and there was a good community spirit among the neighbours. After a short while Suzanne joined the Women's Institute and quickly became the local President, a role she held for five years before stepping down to remain a member to this day.

In 2001, Suzanne's mother decided it was time to downsize, a ¼ acre garden was getting a bit too much to handle. So it seemed the sensible thing to do to move closer to Suzanne and Len. After visiting a few houses that proved unsuitable in some way they got a 'phone call about a house in Fairford Leys that had just come on the market, not even yet advertised. Within minutes of walking through the front door it was very clear that this was 'the one'. Despite being nearly 90 she is still living independently there, with Len visiting every day to take her a newspaper and check all is okay.

Suzanne and Len are now the only residents remaining of the original purchasers in their row. One of their neighbours moved to Spain and Suzanne and Len have kept in touch and visited them there. They have had many pleasant foreign holidays, including

cruises, but nowadays they stick to holidays in the UK, including many 'long weekends' to take Suzanne's mum to visit old friends in Staffordshire. They never miss a visit on the anniversary of Suzanne's father's passing to lay flowers in his memory.

Suzanne and Len regularly attend services at St James Church in Bierton and are involved in the church community there.

They run the church lottery together. Suzanne is also a member of Aylesbury Choral Society, which meets once a week and regularly performs concerts at churches in Aylesbury and around Bucks.

You'd never know from her air of calm serenity that she is such a busy lady.

Carolynne Mckee



## 1st Whitchurch Guides & Rangers Open Night!

On Monday 16th September any girls aged between 10-14 or 14-18 are invited to join us for a fun packed evening! We will be outside creating a campfire, learning fire lighting skills, cooking on fire and S'mores!!

**This would appeal to a girl who wants to have new adventures, learn new skills, make new friends and have FUN!!**

To book your trial then please contact Nicky Batson on 01296 423439 or whitchurchgr@gmail.com

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# WATERMEAD

P R E S E N T S

## A Night At The Movies

### THE JUNGLE BOOK

(Approx Start 6.30 pm)

### MAMMA MIA

(Approx Start 8.30 pm)



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